
U.S. Department of Justice



United States Attorney's Office Eastern District of Virginia

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

May 4, 2006

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Arlington Man Sentenced in Child Pornography Case

(Alexandria, VA) Erick Gastan Franklin, age 42, of Arlington, Virginia, was sentenced to five years in prison to be followed by ten years of supervised release for receipt of child pornography. Chuck Rosenberg, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced the sentencing after Franklin's appearance before United States District Court Judge T.S. Ellis, III.

According to court documents, between September 7, 2004 and October 15, 2004, Franklin arranged to purchase two videos containing child pornography from an undercover U.S. Postal Inspector. On October 26, 2004, after Franklin received the illegal videos, federal agents searched Franklin's residence and seized 1,100 printed images of child pornography, and a personal computer and CD Rom disks that contained more than 50,000 digital still images and movie files of child pornography. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children reviewed the images and recognized 60 children identified by law enforcement in child molestation cases investigated in the United States and in several foreign countries.

In announcing the plea, U.S. Attorney Chuck Rosenberg stated: "Young children are being molested and exploited to produce the shocking images sought by people like Erick Franklin. We will continue to work closely with our Federal, state, and local law enforcement partners to punish those who sexually exploit our children."

The case was investigated by Inspector Clayton Gerber, U.S. Postal Inspection Service, and Special Agent Rob Abrams, Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Assistant United States Attorney Gerald J. Smagala prosecuted the case for the United States.

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